

## **Minutes of the 10 June 2003 meeting of the Oregon Coast TRT WorkGroup, Corvallis, Oregon**

**Attendance.** *WorkGroup Members:* Tom Nickelson, Gordie Reeves, Chuck Huntington, Pete Lawson, Tom Wainwright; *Staff:* Heather Stout, Rosemary Furfey, Bridgette Lohrman; *Visitors:* Lance Kruzic (NMFS), Charlie Corrarino (ODFW), Ed Bowles (ODFW), Paul Engelmeyer (Audubon), Wayne Hoffman (MidCoast WC), Duane Higley (MidCoast WC), Robin Waples (NMFS, by phone).

The meeting convened at 10:00 am.

1. **Introductions.** All members, staff, and guests were introduced.
2. **Review of Minutes (Stout).** Minutes of the 23-24 April meeting were approved and will be posted on the NWFSC website.
3. **Public Outreach (Furfey, Lohrman, Stout).**
  - a) Bridgette has prepared a poster for the HMSC SeaFest (June 21, Newport) giving a general introduction to recovery planning for the Oregon coast. Needs feedback today so it can be finalized.
  - b) Rosemary has received comments back on the draft "Dear Interested Parties" letter and will work on finalizing it. She noted that NOAA's recovery efforts are not well known on the coast, and that we need to "get the word out."
4. **Hatchery and Harvest Management Update (Kruzic).** Lance Kruzic provided an update on hatchery and harvest management activities at the NMFS regional office. Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) will be ready to go out for public review within two months. There are eight HGMPs for the Oregon coastal coho ESU. A limited wild coho harvest in Tahkenitch and Siltcoos Lakes has been proposed by the state and is being reviewed. The rationale for this is that these stocks are stable and relatively healthy, and harvest is consistent with Amendment 13 to the PFMC Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
5. **Recovery Planning Issues and State-Federal Coordination.** Ed Bowles presented information regarding plans for coordinating state and federal recovery planning efforts for Oregon coastal coho. He presented concepts of an "ESA recovery and assurances roadmap", and noted that a memorandum of understanding is being drafted regarding how to proceed with ESA recovery planning under the Oregon Plan and the Oregon Native Fish Conservation Policy. This was followed by a lengthy discussion concerning state and federal timelines, the role of uncertainty in the process, degree of collaboration desired, staffing levels, and possible structure of a joint working group. ACTION: (1) Rosemary and Charlie will look at state and federal task lists, and draft a timeline for discussion at next meeting; (2) state and federal technical staff will discuss workplans.
6. **Public Comment.** Paul Engelmeyer noted that there are substantial uncertainties regarding the Oregon plan, such as the level of funding for the plan, legal status of

water quality standards, and how well SB1010 is working. He suggested that the Oregon Plan is still far shy of recovery, and we are just seeing an upturn due to environmental chance. He also noted that this process needs to take into account the IMST (Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team) comments on all aspects of the Oregon Plan. Finally, he provided a copy of comments on the Plan by Jeff Dose, which may be useful in evaluating metapopulation structure. Wayne Hoffman questioned whether the Oregon Plan activities are adequate for recovery, and how much detail is needed to answer that question. He also suggested that the IMST has already reviewed much of the Plan.

7. **Critical Habitat.** The NMFS Northwest Regional (NWRO) Office is forming CHART Critical Habitat Assessment and Review Teams to rate habitat quality for all listed salmon ESUs. These teams will be summarizing data on habitat and filling out rating sheets which will go to the NWRO. NWRO will then conduct economic analyses and re-designate critical habitat for the listed species. CHARTs will have federal members only, and will meet for approximately 5 days this fall.

## 8. Project Reports.

- a) Genetics—The Ford et al. report is being submitted for publication. Michael Banks has put in a proposal to OWEB and NWRO to do a more thorough DNA analysis of coastal coho.
- b) Alsea workgroup—The workgroup is tasked with modeling fish population dynamics in context of the CLAMS dataset. They had their first meeting to outline the structure of the model. They will be incorporating Nickelson's habitat analysis into the GIS framework.

9. **Independent Populations Report.** An outline of the population report was reviewed and approved with minor revisions. It was decided to move Sutton Lake into the Lakes Diversity Unit, based on the ecological similarity of Sutton Lake to the other major coastal lakes. Criteria for identifying secondary populations were discussed. As an initial criterion, we will include all populations with more than 15 miles of habitat in this category. We also further discussed which category Floras Cr./New River should be in; this is complicated by the complex structure of the basin with a historically shifting mouth. ACTION: Tom Wainwright will revise the report outline to reflect today's discussions and will take to the ONCC TRT meeting in Santa Cruz.

10. **Public Comment.** Wayne Hoffman made several suggestions regarding independent populations. He suggested that run-timing of Devil's Lake coho suggests long-term isolation, that there may be a small-stream "type" of coho that would be important for diversity, that we should not assume that smaller ocean tributaries are regularly overwhelmed by other populations, and that we should recognize possible local adaptation to geomorphology (basalt vs. sandstone basins).

11. **Next Meeting.** July 17, 10:00-4:30, Forest Sciences Laboratory, Corvallis.